

The Necessity of a PLOT : Or, Reasons for a Standing Army. By a Friend to K. G.

IN a Time of profound Tranquillity, whilst a great and wise Prince adorns the Throne, it may seem an Error in Politicks for the Government to alarm the Minds of Men with the Apprehensions of a Plot, or the Necessity of a Standing Army. And this may appear yet more impolitick, if that Prince happen to be free from any domestick Fews; and if, in the full Possession of the Hearts of his People, he be at the same Time assisted by Ministers of consummate Wisdom and unquestionable Integrity. Men of Speculation may, perhaps, think it most adviseable for a Prince, so happily circumstantiated, to govern by the Affections of his Subjects, and to avoid even the Shew of Constraint, especially if his Subjects should have some odd Fancies of their own Independency; or be inveterate Admirers of the Name of Liberty.

But with all the Respect due to Persons of such crude and unfashionable Notions, I would offer it to the Consideration of the candid Reader whether Force and Power, that is a Standing Army, well appointed, and wholly at the Disposal of their Superior, be he never so good Natur'd in himself, or never so great a Promoter of Moderation in others; as likewise whether the Apprehension of some dangerous Plot, design'd against either the Life of the Prince, or the Liberties of the Subject, be not absolutely necessary at this Juncture; in order to establish a Standing Army, and to dissipate all

Objections that may possibly be started against it, by Men of either shallow Judgments or evil Intentions.

Not to wander into remote Considerations concerning Danger, which, as some of the Learned apprehend, is like the Distemper of sore Eyes, to be caught by looking at, that is, by fixing our Thoughts too intensely upon the Object; and not to create to our selves chimerical Enemies, who have no existence but in our own pregnant Imaginations, there are certainly very substantial Arguments, why the Nation should be always under the mild Administration of a Standing Army; and why, at this particular Season, a Plot is expedient, in order to secure to us and our Posterity that Invaluable Blessing.

I presume it will easily be granted me, that an Invasion from some Quarter or other, either from North or South, East, or, it may be, West, may happen at some Time or other: And therefore it would seem but of a Piece with the other Instances of our provident Administration, to be armed against what may or may not happen. I would fain ask any clamorous Champion for the adverse Cause, what, in all humane Probability, might have become of us, if this second Spanish Armada had been turn'd against us, instead of Sardinia, and we had been in such a destitute Condition, as to be unprovided of Thirty Thousand brave Britains in Red to preserve us? Is it not a clear Point, that any, or all the Princes and States in Europe, suppose the Pope, the King of Sweden, the Turk, or even the Republick of san Marino, may take it into their Heads, that we live plentifully in England, have Bread and Beef, and good Cheer in Abundance, and that it is worth their While to abandon their sterile Territories to come and fatten in this rich Soil? and then, Is it not as clear that we should always have our Swords ready drawn to repel the insolent Intruder?

Neither are Suppositions of this Kind to be looked upon as Wild or Foreign. It is one of the wisest Sayings of

of any of our modern Litterati, which a * noble Lord hath chosen for his Motto, (Tuta Time.) This, well translated, may teach us, That "when we are most Safe, we are most in Danger;" That "there is and can be nothing secure in this transitory World;" That "all sublunary Things are liable to Change;" and that, "That which doth not happen to Day may, through the Instability of human Affairs, arrive to Morrow.

* Lord C——nd.

Matchjavel, in his Prince, adviseth all Men to treat their Friends, as if they were one Day to become their Enemies; and Lipsius upon Tacitus observeth somewhere, That a Prince, in the Times of the fullest Peace, should be armed, as if in the Midst of a flaming War: And the Reason he gives for this, is, That Princes (he only spoke of the Princes of his Time) are the least to be trusted, of any Sort of Persons with whom you deal: Because (as he refines according to his Manner) they have one general Salvo, viz. Reasons of State, for all the Breaches of Faith, Vows, Ties of Honour and of Gratitude; and, in general, for all sorts of Injuries, which they can possibly commit.

But let all the Admirers of such sententious Politicians know, that there is now a living Exception to their Rule: A great and glorious Prince, who hath never swerved from his royal Word in the least Tittle; never pretended Necessities of State; nay, never will pretend any Thing like it, (for in his Time we can answer for Futurity) to do a hard, unjust, or cruel Thing.

But yet to do Justice to all People, and more especially to the renown'd Lipsius, I must own, that for the Generality of Princes, there is no Faith among them; nor are any Alliances with them much to be depended upon. And altho' I shall not venture to say, what a great Minister of State did the last Sessions, in the House of Commons, "That we have not one good Ally in the World," yet it may not, perhaps be unbecoming to offer it to the Consideration of the World, Whether all the Princes with whom we are in Alliance, be not Men;

and which is more, Princes, that is, Friends, who have always their own Interest first in view? and, Whether we ought so far to rely on their Friendship in assisting us in the Times of Danger, as to leave our selves Defenceless?

It is very readily granted that the Regent is our fast Friend and Ally; and that he hath courted the Friendship of K. G. at a most astonishing Rate. But his Enemies give out, that he is not always in the same Humour: And, indeed, even here he hath at several Times undergone great Revolutions, in our Opinions. I have heard him at a great Minister's Table toasted one Day, as the best Protestant in Europe; and damn'd the next Day as the veriest —

But not to search too far into his Character, which I dare say, is as Faultless as that of most Princes, we do not know what his own Necessities may compel him to, and how far he may be under the Influence of Reasons of State.

The King of Spain, tho' he keeps in a civil Sort of Friendship with us; yet, for many good Reasons, may be no well-wisher to us at the Bottom; unless he should have Christianity enough to forgive us our Intentions to dethrone him; and unless he should be so little mindful of future Prospects, as not to regard how nearly related he is to the Crown of England, by that imaginary Right Line, whereof some People seem so wildly fond. Not that I have any Doubt, that he can have a Thought of putting in his Claim, even tho' our present royal Family were out of the Way (which God avert): For he should consider, that there are even in that Case, two or three that must come in, before his Title could be set up; but one doth not know what strange Thoughts may be suggested by ambitious Courtiers. Neither is it easy to comprehend what his Ambassador, the M—— of M—— (whom all People allow to be a great Politician) means by his Balls and Assemblies, unless it be, that he hath some strange Things in his Head.

I should

652

I should not say any Thing of the Emperor, were it not that he is a most zealous Papist, and that it is a stated Rule with all of that Profession, that no Faith is to be kept with Hereticks; and it is to be apprehended, that the Emperor may look upon K. G. to be a Heretick, because his Majesty is not only a Protestant, but the best Protestant in the World; and consequently, in the Sense of the Papists, the greatest Heretick.

It cannot be deny'd but there is a strict Confederacy between his Majesty and the High and Mighty States; as many late Incidents and extraordinary Steps in Government, may sufficiently evince: And truly I do look upon them to be, in some respects (not to derogate from others) the best Ally which his Majesty hath; tho', not to run too far that Way neither, they may perhaps, in other respects be our national Rival, which is a different Word for national Enemies. It is the Nature of Rivals to do one another all the Mischief they can: And all the World, at least a great Part of it, knows, and some Part of it hath felt, that the Dutch are not only Jealous of us, in Point of Trade; but, that they have treated us accordingly: Tho' perhaps it may not be so proper to revive the Memory of their past Behaviour, relating either to Amboyna; or their presuming to Dispute with us the Empire of the Ocean. But this we must say, that since their Interests and Ambition clash with ours in the two tender Points of Money and Honour, who knows whether there may not some little Grudges remain thereupon, which might blaze forth upon a seasonable Opportunity? There is one Way, and but One, that I can recollect, of securing them to us, that is by giving them a Compensation in those main Articles, or by wholly sacrificing the Interest of England to that of Holland: But it is to be fear'd, his Majesty, zealous for the Reputation and Trade of Great Britain, will never submit to that, in which Case, the old Jealousies, and consequently the old Dangers, must still subsist.

Your great Man, Monsieur Pettecum, it is true, affirms, over and over, That the Czar of Muscovy is up-

on no Account whatever, to be apprehended by England: He says, That the Dominions of his Czarish Majesty are at such a Distance; his Fleet so unprovided of all Necessaries, that if he had a Mind to distress us, he could not do it. But with all the Submission imaginable to that little great Man, I am of a different Opinion; at least, I think his Reasons require some Examination: For altho' the Dominions of Muscovy be, in Appearance, vastly remote from us, yet they are contiguous to Sweden, and Sweden is contiguous to Norway, and Norway is not above Forty-eight Hours Sail from Scotland, and Scotland is not above Eight Days March from London: By which accumulative Argument, it is evident that Russia and London are too near Neighbours; And allowing only some little Difference of Time, we may as well be invaded from Petersburg, as Mardyke.

We every Day hear of Naval Preparations made by the King of Sicily; upon what Design is not known: But he being next in Succession of the Pretender's Line, as it is pretended, and being one of the refin'd Politicks, who knows what he may attempt?

The King of Prussia is the King's Son-in-law, and consequently being so near a-kin to him, there must be (altho' there be some Exceptions to the contrary, as in the Case of King William and King James) a great deal of paternal and filial Love and Affection between them. But yet, all That will not secure us without an Army: For as I have before hinted, there are Reasons of State, and perhaps other Reasons (not so proper, or rather, not so needful to be insisted upon) which may make it necessary for People to be upon the Watch; tho' still without any Mistrust on either Side.

We may talk as much as we please, That the King of Denmark is ours entirely. If so, how can it be accounted for, that he will go on to demolish Wismar, in spite of all King George's Remonstrances to the contrary? For a little Prince, of his Figure, to persist such a Design, not only without King George's consent, but

but expressly against it, seems to me very extraordinary ; and, in my poor Opinion, shews, that he is therein buoy'd up by some powerful Prince in Masquerade.

But above all, and the most to be apprehended is, the King of Sweden, the Terror of Mankind, the Scourge of the North. A Person, who with less than twenty Men, attacked more than 20000 Janizaries. We have provok'd him : I do not say how wisely : Or at least the Letters publish'd, as if found in Gyllenbourg's Closer, shew, he hath had some wicked Imaginations against us. What are we not to dread from one of his Resentments and his Intrepidity ?

I am sensible that here is some room for a Cavil against my Argumentation ; because it may be urged, that we have nothing in nature to fear from the King of Sweden's Practices. His Majesty was most graciously pleas'd last Sessions of Parliament to find out an effectual Cure for all Dangers from that Quarter : His Message to the Commons by Mr. Stanhope, then Secretary of State, on the third of April was, That ' His Majesty being desirous ' above all things not only to secure his Kingdoms ' against the present Danger with which they are threat- ' ned by Sweden, but likewise to prevent the like Ap- ' prehensions for the future, thinks it necessary that ' Measures should be early concerted, &c. Then, He ' hopes his Commons will enable Him to make good ' such Engagements, as may ease his People of all future ' Charge and Apprehensions. The Sum demanded, in order to enable his Majesty to do this, was 250,000 l. that Sum was given ; and it is so far from being a Question, whether the Money were employed to answer the said Ends, that we can never enough admire the great Wisdom of his Majesty, in finding out so cheap and expedite a Method of ending a War without striking a Blow ; and of securing to latest Posterity such a Peace, as no vicissitude or revolution of times or things can deprive us of. All this may, I own, be urged, as likewise that it may probably be criminal in any one to say, we have any thing to fear from Sweden, since his Ma-
A 4
jesty

jesty hath passed his Royal Word, which never yet hath fallen in the least Article, That he would ' enter into ' such Engagements as should ease us from all future ' Charge or Apprehensions on that account.

This is the force of the Objection, which I have heard more than a thousand times started by little People, who talk at random and know nothing of the Arcana of Government. It is most certain, the King did promise he would secure us from the Dangers, present end future, threatned by Sweden. But I leave it to the Judgment of every dispassionate Reader, whether the Word, Sweden, implied the King thereof; I think not: I am sure, the King of Sweden was not therein mention'd, and the Reason of that Omission is evident: For it is as impossible to answer for him or his Motions, as for those of a Comet, which may drop into our Vortex, the Lord knows when. So that if the King of Sweden, he, who as I said before, fell upon 20000 Janizaries, with only a few of his own Servants, should take a Fancy to come here, it is obvious we should yet want 19,000 Britains at least, allowing 19 Englishmen to answer 20 Janizaries. This appears to me a fair Computation: And whether I have not given full Satisfaction in this whole Point, I must leave to be decided by others.

Thus, from a fair and impartial Examination of the State of Great Britain, with regard to most, or all of the foreign Princes and States, from whom we are to Hope or Fear, I think it will appear, that there is no Sort of Reason in the World that we should lull our selves into so happy, or to speak more justly, unhappy a Security, as to be without a Standing Army.

But to look within our selves; and weigh the State of our Affairs at home, the Reasons for a Standing Force are yet stronger, if that be possible.

Altho' His Majesty King George, who like another Titus, might well deserve to be stiled, The Delight of Mankind; he received, where-ever he goes, with loud Acclamations, Feasts, Balls, nay Bacchanals, yet some
Gentle-

Gentlemen of the House of C——s have said, That there is a great disaffection in the Country to His Majesty's Person and Government: A Language which I do not altogether approve of, nor do I think it strictly true. For tho' the English be naturally so unpolite, as not to affect the German Language, Modes, Habits, Customs, Ministers, or Ladies; and tho' many Lyes may be scatter'd about, yet what hath all this to do with His Majesty's Person or Government? upon what Grounds, by what Laws, could Men of their great Understanding; form so illegal and unjust a Declaration? And yet I cannot but think they knew why they spoke it. Perhaps they drew their Inference from some Indelicencies committed by the Vulgar; and if they had only dwelt upon that, they had done right: The Vulgar are a rude, bold, merry, sawcy Pack, and it is very true they should be restrain'd: So that I agree with these Ministers of State in the End propos'd from their Speech, tho' not in the Expression. For whatever others may say, I am wholly of Opinion, that a standing Army is requisite to suppress all Badges of Rebellion; such as Roses, Horns, Lawrel, or Turnips, which so justly offend the Eyes of our discerning Magistracy.

Again: I take it to be a great Advantage to the Publick, to increase the Debts of the Nation. Philip de Comines gives it as a Reason, why the Londoners were eager for the Restoration of Edward IV. because he had run much in their Debt, and they could never hope to be paid, till he were restor'd. And a great Prelate, who came over at the Revolution, gave this solid and wholesome Advice to King William, to plunge the Nation into such a Debt, as should be impossible to be paid, in Case any alteration in the State should happen: Which Counsel His Majesty (of Glorious Memory) took care to follow. Thus our Government was confirm'd by our Taxes; and our Freedom most happily founded upon our Necessities.

And to do Justice to our Prince of late, so much wiser than their Predecessors, that sort of Policy hath been

been so well understood, that whereas before the Revolution the Government did not owe one Shilling, it now owes 50,000,000 l. Sterl. And whereas in April, 1697. the Income of the Crown, with all Duties, &c. was but 2,120,149 l. 11s. 3d. it is now yearly near 7,000,000 l. and yet we are still running more and more in Debt, to the great Emolument of the Publick. And is it not notorious, that an Army, with all usual appointments, contributes extreamly to the Article of Exigence, and of course, to this great Branch of the Safety of the Kingdom?

Besides, I do not conceive where our Youth of Spirit could be so well Educated as in a Military School; the laudable Accomplishments of a fine Gentleman are there so suddenly acquired, that a Fellow, who but just throws off a private Person's Livery to wear that of the King's, commences immediately a most accomplish'd Beau; he can swear with as good a Grace, talk as rationally against Jesus Christ, the Church and Parsons, as if he had serv'd an Apprenticeship at the Grecian.

Neither is it unworthy our Observation, that the Army supplies the House of Commons with many worthy Members; who might have been wholly lost to the Publick, or employ'd in some lower Sphere of Life, had they not been thrown into the World by Fortune and the Chance of War, perhaps at a Fire-side, or in Hyde-park.

It is to be allowed indeed, that some of the Officers of the Army are Men of honourable Birth and paternal Estates, and behave themselves accordingly in the House and elsewhere, but I speak of some worthy Members, who owe their Rise wholly to the Army; and who, perhaps might still have been clattering their Oaken Plants in the Lobby, if thro' the Army they had not made their Way to the House. Happy hath been the State of Great-Britain, that these Officer's Regiments quarter'd at the Boroughs were they were Elected! and happier will it be when, instead of a Writ for an Election, there will need no more for the Return, but to send down a Regiment of Dragoons!

Is it not likewise a great Honour to us, that a Standing Army will very near reduce us to the State of our Fellow-subjects in Hannover? where we hear of no complaints against the Government: Where the Army is Part of the Constitution, and the People all hope to have their Share therein: Where the Men go to War according as they are hired out, and the Women manure the Ground and bring in the Harvest. In short, where the King was so universally admired, that they could not part with him, even for a short Term, without Floods of Tears from all the People; and where they will still keep the young Prince to comfort them, and exemplify in him the bright Pattern of his Royal Grandfather.

There are moreover imminent Dangers from the North; to prevent which, we should be powerfully armed. The Ghost of Mackintosh hath been seen frequently of late in the Highlands, by our Newsmonger. Rob Roy travels about there, as if he were sole Lord of those black Realms. And tho' I have the greatest Idea of the Lord Lovat, and think him capable of almost every Thing, from his Principles and Dexterity, yet he, with all his Interest, will not be able to keep those Parts in quiet, unless he be seconded by a Standing Army of at least 30,000 Men. It is an old Observation, That you should take Things early, nip Dangers in the Bud; and therefore, since from such small Seeds of Rebellion in those Parts, great Matters may arise, you ought to prepare your self accordingly, and look upon what such a Thing may possibly come to, as if it really had happened: Were I fit to advise, our Army should be every Day drawn out in Battle array, as if Mackintosh and Rob Roy were at the Gates of St. James's.

But this I do not altogether insist upon; I only just give the Hint, leaving the Execution or Improvement of it to others, better versed in the Niceties of Politicks.

Against all these Reasons which I have advanced for a Standing Army, and many more, which might offer, if the

the Thing were not almost Self-evident, the Factious, I suppose, will cry out, as they usually do, with great Noise; they will perhaps say, that a Standing Army in Time of Peace, entirely overturns the old English Constitution: That the only Idea Men have of the Slavery of a Nation, is, that it is subject to a Military Power; that his Majesty came to deliver us from Bondage; but that if we are to groan under this insupportable Load, we had as good, almost, not have been deliver'd; that the Officers, especially the Subalterns, generally every where throughout the Country, commit the greatest Insolencies at this Time; That, under the Sanction or Pretence of the Act about quartering of Soldiers, there are no Sort of Oppressions and Outrages, which are not daily justified; and, That the Murmuring of the People, harassed with Taxes, and insulted by their pretended Deliverers, are endless and inexpressible.

Such are the trifling Objections, which are started against our Scheme: And, for my Part I do not much wonder at it. When Men are out of Humour, they never cease to find Fault. But yet I do not think that such a prudent Ministry and so wise a King as we are bless'd with, will wholly neglect these Complaints; tho' certainly there be nothing in them, yet I should not oppose some Project to stop their Mouths, if it were for no other Reason, than that we might have it to say, the People of England, at last, contentedly submit to a Standing Army.

In order to effect this, I have heard it propos'd, that a Reduction, as it is called, of some few private Men in each Troop or Company should be made; but that the Regiment or Corps shou'd still remain: Hereby the Sound of Disbanding will run through the Kingdom, the People will be pleas'd; and yet the Power of the Army will be as great as ever, and the Expence not much less. If, for Instance, you reduce the 37,000 Men which are in Pay in Great Britain and Ireland to 32,000 or 30,000, the Power of that Body will not be lessen'd, nor the Savings be above 150,000 L. it may be less.

I thought

I thought it a good Observation, which a Gentleman made t'other Day in a Coffee-house, that a Reduction of the Army, as it is called, is like pruning a Tree; it strengthens the Body, and makes it take Root the deeper. The Notion is perfectly right; so that the Army would not be less formidable after such a Reduction, and yet the Quieting of the Minds of the Multitude might be thereby attained.

This Project certainly hath a Shew of great Reason, and may have its Weight in the World: But there is another Stroke, which I take to be much more effective which shall stop all Mouths, reconcile all Parties, endear the Soldiers to us, and rivet upon us and ours for ever, or as long as our Governours please, a triumphant Standing Army. The Thing I mean is a Plot, which if it be but handsomely introduced, shall expose every Man, who dares to mutter against the Army, to the Infamy of being reputed an Enemy to his King and Country.

To observe the several Gradations of a Plot is a Matter of great Curiosity, as well as Use. At first, by the Knowers of Secrets, it should be whisperd at Court: The first Glimmerings should be faint and uncertain: A Composition of half Words, significant Jestures, and references to Time, and few Days. This naturally engageth the Inquisitive and Newsmongers, which spreads the Secret, as all Secrets are spread, thro' the Town and Country. I think the late Lord Sunderland called all Secrets, Spouts. A Multitude of Drops of Rain fall gently from the Tiles into the Spouts, and thence the whole is poured into the Streets and Common Sewers.

When the Secret is thus half divulg'd, in some little Time, the Conjectures of every one are added to the first imperfect Accounts: The World is at a Gaze: The Populace, always susceptible of Terrors, gape for the Discovery, and in the mean Time see Armies in the Clouds: And then after this regular Preparation, the chief Person comes forth in Publick, tells some terrible Story of horrid Desigus, bloody Massacres, dangerous Confederacies, or barbarous Assassinations, that, thro' the Providence of God, have been detected.

As far as my small Observation hath reached, this is the natural Progress of a Plot: And the good Effects are not to be described. In the Hurry and Amazement we are ready to swallow any Thing for Truth: The grossest Impositions upon the Understandings of Mankind are embrac'd as Oracles, and immediate Assistance sent from Heaven for our preservation.

Thus the Managers in 41 usher'd in all their Extravagancies, with some previous Whispers or Accounts of horrid Conspiracies against the Government; and by that single Artifice chiefly carried every Thing they had a mind to. It is true indeed, the Precedent is none of the Best; yet a wise Prince may extract Good out of Evil; and besides he will have this Argument on his Side, that if a Plot can thus actuate and inspire Men in flagitious Attempts, how much more Vigour will it have on them in the Prosecution of glorious Ends?

The memorable Plot at the Time of the Revolution, concerning the Irish Army, did more Wonders than the then Prince of Orange, with his 9000 Dutch Forces could have brought about. It had such an Influence, that even after it was known, that there was no Irish Army near us, nor a Throat to be cut, yet so thoroughly did the first Impressions of Dread possess the Hearts of Man, Woman, and Child, that they thought they liv'd but by the Protection of that tutelar Angel.

For my Part I have such a Veneration for the Author of that pious Fraud, that I can never forgive the late Duke Schomberg, who had the Honour of it. For it may incontestably appear from the Works of the famous Capt. Speke, that he alone was the original Parent of it, whilst another reap'd the Glory, and which is worse, the Profit. But this may lead us into the moral Reflection, how Fortune and not Merit governs the World.

In all Ages, Plots have been in great Repute with wise Men; and as to the Effect, it is of no Sort of Consequence, in popular Governments, whether they be ill or well grounded: For the pretended Plot will always serve the present Turn, as well as the real One: The

The same Way that Credit will carry a Man, for some Time, through the World, as well as if he had a Substantial Fund: And it is his Fault if in that Season he do not establish himself for the future.

So to come to the Point in question, if a Plot can but secure to us the Blessing of a Standing Army for one Year more, in the Time of Peace, would it not be to think ill of our Government, to suppose in that Time, they would not settle Matters so, as for the future to need no such Artifices?

Did not the Swedish Plot, last Spring, conduct the Designs of the Court smoothly through both Houses? and may not something of the same Nature have the same Effect this Year? Of That, there never was offer'd the least Proof, but a few Letters, which are yet Children of Darkness, their Authority having never been sufficiently clear'd up. Yet lame and imperfect as this Plot was, it had Weight enough to keep up the Army for a Twelve-month, to countenance several Hardships, and to occasion a Prohibition of all Commerce with a Kingdom, without whose Trade we can scarce subsist.

The only Difference between a Plot that is well grounded, and One that is otherwise, is, That the Former strikes at the worst Sort of Men, but the Latter affects the Best.

For this Reason, as well as some others, I hope it cannot be imagined, that I would hereby insinuate, that the Ministry have the least Design of putting any Plot upon the World, but such as is founded upon a solid Truth. Altho', if I were to speak my Mind, I wish we were to have a Plot of some Kind or other; and if Reason of State did so require it, I cannot see the least Cause why the Ministry should hesitate upon it, thro' Tendernefs of Conscience, or Passion for Truth. I am clear in my own Judgment in the Point, that if the Exigencies of the Government did need a Plot, it is just in itself, and Laudable in the Eye of the World, to send one out, some way or other, altho' perhaps Proofs
there

there might be none; and I should look upon it as a general Calamity; if any Person concern'd should defeat the good Ends, propos'd hereby; out of Scruples of Conscience.

There is one Circumstance which gives me and others great Hopes that some important Matters are to be brought to Light. A Gentleman, who hath been as dangerous as any one, in all Plots, against the Government and the Illustrious House, both in the late and present Reign; and who, at present, is under the heaviest Censure of the Law, is preparing, as we are inform'd, to return to his native Soul: His late Intinacies may dispose him to see his former Errors: His demands from Nature oblige him to an Expende, which his Fortune is by no means equal: His Abilities are very great; so we have all the reason in the World to hope, both from his Power and Inclinations, that a Plot may be form'd for the Salutary Liberty already specified, and which may crown the great Services he hath hitherto rendred to the Government.

As to my Self I am prepared, by the Blessing of God, whenever any such thing begins to appear, to give into it with all my Faculties; and not to examine too nicely into the grounds or probability; the thing is good in it self, and should be received with an implicate Faith: Such a saving Faith I declare to all the World I have, and am resolv'd to preserve: And let all those who will not profit by my Example, and the plain Dictates of right Reason, answer it to God and their Country, that neither Religion nor the publick Welfare could induce them to believe as the Government would have them.